MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The total expenditure incurred by Government on account of the Minor Irrigation Committee under establishment, allowances and contingencies is Rs. 9,103-1-5.

(*b*) The committee submitted its report on the 3rd October 1931.

(*c*) Printed copies of the report were received from the Press on the 20th February 1932 and the members of the Council were supplied with copies of the report by the close of March 1932.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Of the total expenditure of Rs. 9,103-1-5, may I know the separate amounts spent towards the establishment, towards allowances and towards contingencies?

MR. A KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The question does not ask for that information; and it is not before me now.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): When was the report sent to the Press for the printing of copies?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): In December, 1931.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the Government have considered the proposals of the committee?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): That too does not form part of the interpellation.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): But I am now asking a supplementary question.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The report is under consideration.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the member be pleased to tell me when the Government will be able to pass final orders in the matter?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I cannot answer that now.

Building for the Government Vernacular School at Kadakkad in Mavelikara taluk.

241. MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Education Department has agreed that a building for the Government Vernacular School at Kadakkad in Mavelikara taluk would be put up if the public acquired the site for the same and deposited Rs. 150;

(*b*) whether the above conditions were satisfied by the public, and, if so, on what date;

(*c*) whether in answer to a representation by the Muslim Co-operative Society, the Director has replied on the 3rd May 1930 that the matter would be engaging his attention; and

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(*d*) if the Department has not done anything till now (5-8-1107) for putting up the building, the reasons for the delay?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. The deed transferring to the Government the site for the school is dated the 24th Kanni 1105.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Government have accorded administrative sanction for the construction of a new building for the school at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,500 and the Chief Engineer has been asked to take up the work when funds become available.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Has it been stated in the agreement between the people and the Education Department that the building would be put up only *after* funds become available?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got with me now a copy of the deed of agreement; I am sorry, therefore, that I cannot answer the question now.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know why steps have not so far been taken to construct the building? The people have fulfilled *their* part of the contract.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The member knows very well our present financial difficulties.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : When did the financial stringency begin?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : More than a year ago.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Was not the site transferred to the Government about two and a half years ago, on the 24th Kanni 1105, long before this financial stringency?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : But, it was only after the people had satisfied their part of the agreement that the question could be taken up for consideration by Government. That, of course, took some time.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : After compelling the poor people to acquire a site and to deposit a decent sum, is it proper on the part of the Department to make the people wait indefinitely?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no question of propriety. If funds are available, Government would only be too glad to start the work.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): In view of the agreement.....

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The agreement does not say that the Government will put up the building immediately after the execution of the agreement.

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Am I to understand that, because the agreement happens to be silent on the matter, the Government can put off the construction of the building indefinitely?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are not postponing it indefinitely. As soon as funds become available for this purpose, Government will begin work.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Should not the Government keep their word?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Their word is only that they would put up the building; and they will surely do it.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know when they choose to do it.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): As soon as funds are available.

Reduction of the minimum fixed for loans issued from the Land Mortgage Bank.

242. MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received representations for modifying the rule with regard to the minimum fixed for the loans issued from the Land Mortgage Bank?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): No representations have been received but steps are being taken to reduce the minimum from Rs. 500 to Rs. 250.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): On what basis was this minimum of Rs. 500 fixed?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): The minimum of Rs. 500 was considered to be a reasonable amount for the purpose.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): From the standard of the ordinary ryot of Travancore, or of the Government?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): From both.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is the average wealth of a ryot in Travancore?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Statistics are not available on that matter.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know then how the Government were able to conclude that Rs. 500 was a reasonable figure from the stand-point of the ryot also?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): There is an idea now to reduce the minimum to Rs. 250.

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